

12-6-2000

## December 6th 2000

Hispanic News

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### Recommended Citation

Hispanic News, "December 6th 2000" (2000). *Hispanic News*. Paper 282.  
<http://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/hispanicnews/282>

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A Publication of the  
Hispanic Communication &  
Development Corporation

Wednesday  
December 6, 2000  
Volume 14  
Number 06



# HISPANIC NEWS

***Serving the Hispanic Communities in the Inland Empire***

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***The Inland Empire's only Hispanic Minority Owned English Language Newspaper***

## SANDRA CANON YOUNG RETIRES AFTER 31 YEARS AS RESTAURANT OWNER



Sandra Canon Young and Robert Young, at center, with son and daughters, grandchildren at the retirement party at the Gents Community Center for Sandra after 43 years in restaurant cooking and 31 years as proprietress of the El Taquito Drive Inn, Colton. *The Inland Empire Hispanic News commends Sandra Canon Young for many years as a businessperson and unselfish contributions to organizations in the communities of the Inland Empire. We wish her well in her retirement.*

Sandra Canon Young decided to retire (?) after 43 years in the restaurant business and 31 years as proprietress of El Taquito Drive Inn, a fast food business known for its delicious Mexican food throughout the Inland Empire.

At a retirement party at the Gents Community Center attended by over 500 friends and long-time customers, Young's daughter, Lisa Diaz, spoke of her mother's devotion to her children while growing up. "Our mother paid attention to our needs. We are all grateful for her love and devotion and we love her very much," she said.

Sandra Young, a little nervous, spoke to the large audience of friends and customers, stated, "I loved having a business and cooking. I always tried to cook for each of my friends, maybe that is why I have such satisfied customers," she stated with a smile as the audience applauded. "I am very grateful to all for the support given to me all these many years. I especially want to thank my family for their support."

Sandra Canon Young started her

cooking career at the tender age of 16 when she was employed at Baker's in Rialto. In 1960, she changed jobs, when co-worker, Charlie Police, opened El Taco Rio in San Bernardino and offered her a job.

*Continue on Page 4*

## LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE STILL SPEAKS TO US TODAY

**By Father Patricio Guillen**



Ten years after Hernan Cortez and his army had brutally left the Aztec Empire in shambles and Tenochtitlan (Mexico City) in ruins, blessed ever Virgin Mary, mother of the true God appeared to Juan Diego, a native of Cuautitlan, the valley of the Eagles. The apparitions took place on the hillside of Tepeyac where supposedly the last bloody battle took place. When the narration of the apparition says that the sword and shield were laid down it means that the Great Aztec Empire that had flourished for over 200 years had come to an end. The economic, political, cultural, religious educational and social conditions were of a wounded, dominated people.

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## SAN BERNARDINO 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT SUPERVISOR APPOINTS MARTÍN VALDEZ TO CHIEF OF STAFF



San Bernardino County 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Jerry Eaves congratulates Martín Valdez on his appointment as chief of staff to the district office. Valdez had served for five years as special assistant to the San Bernardino County's Superintendent of Schools.

San Bernardino County 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Jerry Eaves announced the appointment of Martín Valdez as his new chief of staff.

Supervisor Eaves stated that the search to fill the important position focused on leadership skills and an established relationship with the people

of the fifth district. He believes he has found the right person in Martín Valdez.

Eaves said that Valdez' position as special assistant to the San Bernardino County's Superintendent of Schools for five years gave him many opportunities to work directly with businesses, community members and a variety of community groups.

"I am pleased to have someone of Martín's caliber who knows my district and my staff so well," Eaves said.

Eaves further stated that focusing on continuing to increase communications with his constituents, Valdez' business background, established working relationships, familiarity with issues affecting the fifth district and his reputation as a respected leader will serve the district well.

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## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR HISPANIC HIGHSCHOOL SENIORS NOW AVAILABLE AT PARTICIPATING MCDONALD'S RESTAURANTS

*Ronald McDonald Charities Scholarship program celebrates  
15 years of supporting Hispanic Academic Excellence*

In the last 15 years, the RMCH/HACER (Ronald McDonald's House Charities/Hispanic American Commitment to Educational/Resources) Scholarship program has grown to become the nation's largest charitable initiative dedicated to advancing the education of Hispanics who are making the transition from high school to college. Since its inception in 1985, the program has awarded more than \$7 million in scholarships to over 6,000 Hispanic students in the U.S. Applications for the 2001-2002 school year are now available at [www.rmhc.org](http://www.rmhc.org), [www.mcdonalds.com](http://www.mcdonalds.com), [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) at participating McDonald's restaurants within program areas, or through participating senior class high school counselors throughout the nation and Puerto Rico. The application period is open through February 1, 2001.

High School graduating seniors with at least one parent of Hispanic heritage are encouraged to apply. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic achievement, financial need and community involvement. Further

information is available through the program's RMHC/HACER scholarship hotline at 1-800 736-5219 or at [www.rmhc.org](http://www.rmhc.org)

"We are extremely proud of the number of students we have assisted in the last 15 years," said RMHC President and CEO Ken Barun. It is gratifying to know that we've played a key role in helping those students achieve their educational goals." Argelia Atilano, entertainment anchor for KVEA-TV Telemundo, Los Angeles was one of the HACER scholarship recipients in 1992. "When you come from a broken family and a bad neighborhood, you think that nobody is going to believe in you," said Atilano. "Receiving the HACER Scholarship helped me to believe in myself and realize my abilities. I am grateful to the Ronald McDonald House Charities and the entire McDonald's family for motivating me to work hard and achieve my educational dreams."

RMHC/HACER is a program of Ronald McDonald House Charities and its local Chapters and is supported through the efforts of McDonald's Owner/Operators and McDonald's Corporation. Local chapters of RMHC operate HACER programs in 34 markets throughout the nation, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

"We congratulate everyone involved in making RMCH/HACER the nation's largest Hispanic scholarship program's growth and are committed to investing in the community by helping make higher education a reality for Hispanic youth."

In celebration of the program's 15th anniversary, Ronald McDonald House Charities is conducting a search of former RMHC/HACER alumni. If you are a recipient, please contact Maritza Baca at 626/793-9335

## REGISTRATION BEGINS FOR RCC'S WINTER INTERSESSION

Riverside Community College registration is currently in place for its 2001 Winter Intersession and classes will run through February 8, 2001. Last year, some 7,000 students enrolled in the six-week courses scheduled between the traditional fall and spring semesters.

Winter Intersession classes start on January 2, 2001. Day and evening classes are offered at the RCC campuses in Moreno Valley, Norco, and Riverside, with several courses available online through the Open Campus program.

Designed to meet the needs of new and continuing RCC students, as well

The apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ had one goal – to help this wounded people to rise from their oppressive situation. The narration begins with the beautiful singing of exotic birds and ends with the flowers in the Tilma of Juan Diego imprinting the image of the Virgin Guadalupe on it.

This is a cultural expression that is used to emphasize that this is a sacred, holy event that contains profound truths. The message of the Virgen Maria de Guadalupe is there for a hopefilled one. She wants Juan Diego, the native of the people to ask the newly appointed Bishop Juan de Zumarraga to construct a temple for her on the hillside named Tepeyac. From this hallowed ground consecrated by the blood of the Aztecs who had given their lives in defense of their people and land she promised to provide, refuge, protection, assistance, and love to all the inhabitants of these lands and to all who honor and reverence her.

Rather than focusing on the apparitions as extraordinary phenomena, the Guadalupean narration named "El Nican Maphua", we need to appreciate the clear message that Juan Diego represents. It symbolizes how social change is brought about by the natives and not by the powerful represented by Bishop Juan Zumarraga.

Juan Diego the humbled native versus Bishop Juan Zumarraga with his co-workers made it difficult to get the message and the building of the temple accomplished. Juan Diego despite the failure of his first attempt valiantly assumes his active role in the liberating process of his people once La Virgen de Guadalupe reconfirms Juan Diego's role. The resistance and lack of faith of the bishop and his co-workers reminds us that often the poor are more open to call for change for which God is calling. It is a reminder for us today that the impoverished, the

welfare persons, the homeless, the social outcasts are the ones who can and will evangelize us if we remember the words of the Gospel, "The last shall be first and the first shall be last." The illness and near death of Juan Diego's uncle, Juan Bernardino, who is cured of his illness – la peste – which was brought over by the Spaniards.

The conversion of the bishop and his co-workers reminds us that in God's plan of establishing his kingdom here on earth, even if it is never perfectly completed wants the oppressed and oppressor to form a community of fraternity based on equality.

The construction of the temple on the Tepeyac hill symbolizes the temple of God's creation. Even today as we witness the presence of activists demonstrating at the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle, Washington, it reminds the world leaders to get input from the people, the poor, the forgotten. It is an ugly social sickness to see that the nations of the Northern Hemisphere live in abundance and those in the South live in misery.

Today the Southern Hemisphere symbolizes Juan Diego and the North symbolizes those in power and affluence. Both at the national and international levels, we should listen to God's call through the cry of the impoverished, those who have been made poor by unjust social structures. What better way to begin the third millennium than by the rich Nations forfeiting the debts of the very poor nations. To worry about our computers for Y2K and ignore the cry of the impoverished and the destruction of our environment by greedy persons and corporations does not make sense.

The Virgen de Guadalupe's message is as true today as it was in December 1532. To celebrate this fiesta implies a commitment for people like Juan Diego to roll up their sleeves and work for change and for those in positions of power to become servants of their constituents. Viva la Virgen Maria de Guadalupe! Viva Juan Diego el sujeto de liberación! Viva Cristo Rey el modelo de todos los que luchan por la liberación de todos los pueblos y personas!

Long live the Blessed Virgen Maria of Guadalupe! Long live Juan Diego, the symbol of those who struggle for freedom and dignity! Long live Christ the King who became the model for all people and persons who seek freedom!

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Inland Empire

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**The Inland Empire Hispanic News is owned and operated by the Hispanic Communication and Development Corporation.**

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**The Inland Empire Hispanic News is published every two weeks and distributed in San Bernardino, Riverside, Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario, Corona, Casa Blanca, and the High Desert. You may subscribe or advertise by contacting the office at:**

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## "STRAIGHT TALK" RADIO CAMPAIGN TARGETS VOUCHER DEFEAT AND IMPROVING LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS

The California Teachers Association today launched a new statewide "Straight Talk" radio advertising campaign that will begin to address the needs of students and teachers in California's lower-performing schools.

"The overwhelming rejection of school vouchers for the second time in seven years clearly shows that Californians support improving our public schools, and they know that vouchers are not the answer," said CTA President Wayne Johnson.

Despite millions of dollars spent by Silicon Valley venture capitalist Tim Draper, voters rejected the school voucher initiative 71 to 29 percent – an even larger margin than in 1993. Proposition 38 was defeated in every county across the state and in every demographic group. African Americans, Latinos, Democrats and Republicans rejected vouchers as a way to help our public schools.

In the radio commercial Johnson goes on to state that, "Instead, we need to implement high standards for our students, and then make sure public schools get the resources they need to help kids perform. That means

more parental involvement, well-trained teachers, uncrowded classrooms, and clean, safe schools."

"CTA is currently surveying its members and conducting extensive research on low performing schools. Teacher representatives to the CTA State Council will discuss various options at its meeting in February.

The radio commercials will run on 112 stations, covering every media market across California. They will air in six different languages: English, Spanish, Korean, Japanese, Mandarin and Vietnamese. The ads will run from November 27 through December 15. A second advertising campaign will begin next spring.

*The 300,000-member CTA is affiliated with the 2.5-million member National Education Association.*

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## A GIFT OF LOVE

On Saturday December 11, 1999 the halls of Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) resounded with the sound of 45 Navy Jr. ROTC (NJROTC) cadets from Rialto High School lending their voice and enthusiasm as volunteers in the care of the patients in the medical center. Not only did the cadets offer their weekend free time, they donated a fully decorated Christmas tree to the Emergency Department and gifts that they purchased on their own to the children in the Pediatric unit. The NJROTC cadets will once again donate their time and energy to bring cheer to those unable to get out of the hospital for the holiday season on Saturday, December 16, 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This year we anticipate having a string-trio playing holiday music, carolers, and tree decorating in the John P. Morris Pediatric Unit, the

Emergency Department and the Emergency Department Extension.

Pat Redinger, Volunteer Services Manager, is thrilled to share the day with the cadets. "Words cannot adequately express how enjoyable it is to have so many eager volunteers assisting throughout the hospital on a weekend." The ARMC Volunteer Services program takes only a few hours each week to make a difference in someone's life – both the patient and the volunteer's. To volunteer, call Pat or Bonita at (909) 580-6340.

The efforts of the Rialto High School Navy Jr. ROTC cadets are greatly appreciated by all of the patients and staff of Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. The citizenship demonstrated by the cadets deserves praise from all sectors. For more information, please contact Rick Danzey at (909) 580-6100.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA AT RADISSON

The Inland Empire Symphony GUILD is having its 6<sup>th</sup> annual New Year's Eve GALA at the San Bernardino Radisson Hotel on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 7 p.m. - 1 a.m., dancing to Chris Davis and his orchestra, swing dance performance, silent auction, four-course gourmet dinner served, elegant decorations, table favors, balloons

and champagne. Harris/Gottschalks \$500 certificate door prize

Chairing the committee of 24 is Evelyn Hill. Serving on the Junior Committee are David Aguilar and Marisa Aguilar.

For more information call Evelyn Hill (909) 882-0080

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## SANDRA CANON YOUNG RETIRES AFTER 31 YEARS AS RESTAURANT OWNER

Continued from Page 1



Sandra Canon Young and Robert Young, center, pose with daughters Brenda Canon Morua, left, and Lisa Canon Diaz, at the retirement party for Sandra at the Gents Community Center.

Police recognized Sandra's love for cooking and inspired her to own her own business. The idea to become independent and start a restaurant became an obsession.

When El Taco Rio closed in 1965, Young was employed by Tonya and Mailo Solorio, working at the Fiesta Restaurant in Rialto and El Taquito Drive Inn on Mount Vernon in Colton. In 1969, Frank and Sandra Canon brought El Taquito Drive Inn from their employers.

Throughout these many years, El Taquito has become one of the most popular Mexican eatery in the Inland Empire, due mostly to Young's expert cooking, hard work and a desire to personally satisfy each customer.

Gloria Ruiz, Arrowhead Credit Union service manager, has known Sandra Young since age 17. "Her food was so delicious that I used my babysitting money just to buy the pork combination burrito. I was a customer and we became good friends," she said. Ruiz also said that other items in the menu were also good, including the old fashion hamburgers, chile verde, tortas, enchiladas and other dishes. "Many friendships were made and we look forward to meeting on a daily basis. She is such a beautiful person, always friendly and the reason why so many people attended her retirement party."

The other siblings, Frank Canon, Jr. and Brenda Canon Morua grew up working alongside their mother as teenagers and young adults. The second generation, Jennifer Canon, Erica Jimenez, Angel Jimenez and Monique Molina have also grown up working with their grandmother.

At the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Sandra celebrated by reverted to the original prices when she first started her business. On this occasion she also received a plaque from the City of Colton for a successful business.

Throughout these many years, Sandra has had a strong commitment to the communities and supported many groups and individuals: Sheriff's Department, County's Dare Program, Colton Police Department, Colton Fire

Department's Christmas fundraiser, Our Lady of Guadalupe Annual Fiestas, VFW 6476, Gents Organization and sponsorship of events.

In recognition of her generosity, many awards and resolutions have been presented: VFW Post 6476 (twice) for support of veterans activities, Sheriff's Department Athletic Federation for program support, Colton Police Officers Association for youth activities, Colton Chamber of Commerce for Outstanding Service, Mixcoacalli Folklorico for group sponsorship, Gents Organization (twice) for youth activities and scholarship programs, City of Colton Proclamation for community service and congratulations on her retirement, among others.



Sandra Canon Young, left, receiving a proclamation from City of Colton Councilman Richard De La Rosa on the occasion of Sandra's retirement and contribution to the community.

Tony Diaz, son-in-law, has been a steady customer at El Taquito since Little League and enjoyed the chile verde. "When they saw me coming, my order would be ready and I enjoyed that. The other beautiful thing was that I became better acquainted with Lisa, who later became my wife. In the last 10 years since I have known Sandra, I have seen a very dedicated and hard-working woman who is very giving of herself."

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San Bernardino County Department of Public Health

## FORD MOTOR COMPANY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP SEMINAR SERIES ANNOUNCED



Ford Motor Company announced the *Empowerment through Entrepreneurship* seminar series in partnership with the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce during the recent USHCC Annual Convention in Washington, DC. The initiative is aimed at fostering a climate of entrepreneurial opportunity through targeted Hispanic supplier identification, mentoring programs and targeting Hispanic individu-

als for dealership opportunities. In the photo (l to r) are Richard Honecker, Director of Global Purchasing, Ford Motor Company, Mr. Ray Arvizu, Chairman of the USHCC and George Herrera, President and CEO of USHCC. For more information about Ford Motor Company minority supplier/dealer initiatives visit: [www.fordmsd.com](http://www.fordmsd.com) and [www.dd.ford.com](http://www.dd.ford.com), respectively.

## SAN BERNARDINO 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT SUPERVISOR APPOINTS MARTÍN VALDEZ TO CHIEF OF STAFF

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Valdez earned a B.A. and is currently enrolled in a master's program in public administration, both at the Cal-State, San Bernardino. He is president of the Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Los Padrinos of Southern California, member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino, The Gents Organization and the County Hispanic Employees Alliance. Valdez has served on the boards of the Boys and Girls Club of San Bernardino, Libreria Del Pueblo and the San Gorgonio Council of Girl Scouts.

Eaves indicated that over 40 resumes were received in response to advertisements in local newspapers and the county's internet site. Seven individuals were eventually interviewed by Eaves and his senior staff.

Valdez will begin serving as chief of staff on December 18, replacing T. Milford Harrison, who left the position to serve as executive director of the Inland Valley Development Agency.

"I am looking forward to working with Supervisor Eaves in carrying out his programs in serving the people of the district," Valdez said.

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## THE COUNSELING CORNER PARENT-TEEN COMMUNICATIONS - WHEN TO SEEK HELP

As noted in previous columns, communications between teens and their parents is often a difficult issue for a variety of reasons. Teens want to look mature and responsible in their parents' eyes. They may believe talking about problems or anxieties will stop that from happening. At the same time, parents want to protect their teens and not give too much freedom too quickly — a source of conflict that often leads to communication difficulties. Yet parental fears and hesitancy are often justified, especially in a society that offers so many opportunities and so many dangers.

It is not surprising that such a relationship often leads to strained or almost non-existent communication. Yet it is clear that a great deal of this conflict between teen and parent is often unavoidable, simply a normal part of human development. Within that "normal" level of disagreement, frustration and stress, as parents, most of us recognize how important it is to keep the lines of communication open. You need to keep talking with your kids.

But sometimes we may find that "normal human development" may not cover changes in behavior and communications that we see with our teens. An important question is how to tell the difference between what is normal and what is a sign that outside help may be needed. When serious communication difficulties arise between the teens and parents, it is time to look at the behaviors and stresses leading to those difficulties. There

may be indicators as to whether things are within the "normal" range, or if more serious problems exist. Take notice when your teen either physically or emotionally withdraws from the family, begins consistently breaking previously agreed upon rules, doesn't follow through with family chores, or shows other negative and growing changes in behavior.

You may notice that there has been a change in the groups of friends, a drop in grades at school, or sudden changes in dress or appearance. Your teen may become increasingly argumentative over small issues. Such behaviors, coupled with communication difficulties, can be an indicator that something serious may be wrong. If you notice any of these things, ask yourself the following questions.

- Was the onset of this communication or behavioral problem sudden or over a period of time? A sudden onset may be situational, something due to an outside force or recent event, and is more likely to resolve itself with a little patience on the part of the parent. However, if things have gotten progressively more difficult, that could be an indication that help is needed.
- Are the difficulties in your relationship escalating or occurring more often? If the intensity and frequency of the flare-ups are increasing, it may mean that help is needed.
- Are the stressful episodes lasting longer than usual? You may need outside help if the duration is increasing and out of proportion for the actual event that caused the difficulty.

Parents also need to ask if they

are contributing more to the problem than to the solution. There may be events or circumstances in their own lives that are contributing to their overall stress load and thus magnifying the difficulty with the teenager.

But if it appears that your teen would benefit from outside help, where do you turn? A good place to start is with the school counselor. These professionals understand what is "normal" and what is an indication that help is needed for teenagers.

A second source of help is the Community Mental Health Center. You will find a variety of well-trained mental health professionals who will be able to be of assistance in working through some of these communication problems.

A third source of help can be found in private practitioners. You will find Licensed Professional Counselors and other mental health professionals in the Yellow Pages. While each of these professions offer a slightly different emphasis on working through difficulties, all can help.

*The Counseling Corner is provided as a public service by the American Counseling Association, the nation's largest organization of counseling professionals. You can learn more about the counseling profession at the ACA web site, [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org).*

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Catholic Charities Immigration Services has announced its new "Naturalization Assistance Project" for persons needing assistance relating to naturalization.

NAP is able to provide assistance with the naturalization/citizenship application — free of charge to eligible Riverside county residents. The client only pays the required \$250 INS fee.

NAP will be holding citizenship workshops all over Riverside County in the upcoming months.

The workshops enable legal residents to benefit from the expertise of BIA certified staff to help them complete the citizenship application, take photos, follow-up and referral, and inquiry with the INS about their pending application.

Citizenship Workshop Schedule:

- Dec. 10, 2000 - 12 noon  
Corpus Christi  
3760 N. McKinnley, Corona
  - Jan. 10, 2001 - 6 p.m.  
Housing Authority Riverside  
1153 Spruce St., Riverside
  - Jan. 28, 2001 - 2 p.m.  
St. Matthew's  
2140 W. Ontario Ave., Corona
- For further information call 388-1243 and ask for Barbara Lumetta.

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### Gents Organization

### New Year's Eve Dance

Sunday December 31, 2000

at

Gents Community Center  
1462 Art Townsend Drive  
San Bernardino, CA  
(Formerly Norton Air Force Base)  
Doors Open at 7:00 pm  
(No Reservation)

### Band - Timepiece

From 9:00 pm - 1:00 am

\$25.00 Per Person

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Redlands .....	909-793-1206
Colton .....	909-825-5824 or 909-825-2188
Rialto .....	909-820-2480

## Recharge Your Business

More and more businesses today are relying on a variety of electric equipment to help them get the job done. Forklifts, lifting machines and hand trucks, just to name a few.

And to help its business customers offset the costs of this equipment, Riverside Public Utilities offers an **Indoor Electric Vehicle Purchase Incentive** program.

Rebates are available on qualified equipment, which cover 25% of the purchase cost with maximum annual rebates of \$10,000 available per electric account.

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## WHILE AMERICA CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING NEW STUDY SHOWS FARM LABOR SUFFERING IN SILENCE



One worker helps another cross an irrigation ditch in a San Joaquin Valley tomato field. Photo by Bill Gillette

While millions of Americans celebrated their Thanksgiving feast, the work force that produced that seasonal bounty continues to suffer in silence. A landmark study released today by The California Endowment reveals that the vast majority of California's agricultural workers are at serious risk for life-threatening chronic diseases caused by poor nutrition, and enjoy little or no access to health care to treat these illnesses.

The California Agricultural Worker Health Survey (CAWHS), the first comprehensive study to examine farm labor health issues, found an alarmingly high risk for heart disease, stroke, hypertension and diabetes among the state's agricultural workers, most of whom are young men who should be in peak physical condition especially considering their labor-intensive jobs.

"It's a travesty that the families who produce such an abundance of healthy food for our tables suffer from a poor diet and limited or non-existent health care," says Robert K. Ross, M.D., president and chief executive officer of The California Endowment, the state's largest health foundation. "As a nation we literally enjoy the fruits of their labors, but we give little

back in the way of the most basic health care."

Among the study's most startling findings were the revelations that young agricultural workers (20 to 34-years-old) are more than twice as likely to have high blood pressure as other U.S. adults and that more than three out of four were overweight or obese than other U.S. adults. Male agricultural workers were four times more likely to suffer from iron deficiency anemia, an indication of poor nutrition.

The base-line study discovered that more than a third of the male agricultural workers have never seen a doctor or been to a health clinic. Over half of the males and 40 percent of the female agricultural workers have never been to a dentist, even though more than a third of the men and nearly 40 percent of the women have at least one rotten, broken or missing tooth. During the interviews that included a complete physical examination, four out of ten workers reported persistent pain that lasted more than a week, as well as itchy or irritated eyes, headaches, skin irritation and numbness.

"The very people who have

helped build the nation's food economy have slipped through America's safety net for health care. They're facing unprecedented health threats with few places to turn for help," says Ross.

The benchmark study, conducted by the non-profit California Institute for Rural Studies, combined extensive one-on-one interviews of nearly 1,000 workers in six of the state's major agricultural areas with a complete physical, including blood and urine testing. The results provide the medical community with clinical baseline health data that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of future interventions and the overall health of this underserved population.

In addition to being labor-intensive, agriculture is America's most dangerous industry after construction, according to the National Safety Council, yet 70 percent of the workers surveyed lacked any form of health insurance. About 16.5 percent said that their employer offered health insurance, a figure far lower than any other industry in America. However, nearly one-third of these same workers did not take advantage of this benefit because they could not afford either the cost of premiums or co-payments.

This week marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Edward R. Murrow's chronicle of America's agricultural workers in his groundbreaking broadcast, "Harvest of Shame." Tragically, the CAWHS findings demonstrate that agricultural workers continue to suffer disproportionately and lack the health care access needed to correct their plight.

Calling for action, The California Endowment is establishing a Task Force of health providers, migrant labor, community and agribusiness leaders and other influential policy makers to address this health crisis. Since its inception in 1996, The California Endowment has committed over \$50 million to help 35 statewide programs

and grants assist the states agricultural Labor force.

For additional information or a complete copy of the study, visit the Endowment's Web site at [www.calendow.org](http://www.calendow.org) or contact Elinor Gilbert, External Communications Manager, at (818) 703-3311, ext. 240.

### PROFILE OF AN AVERAGE AGRICULTURAL WORKER

Based on the California Agricultural Worker Health Survey, the profile of an average California agricultural worker is a young, married, Mexican male who has little formal education and who earns less than \$10,000 annually. Although 971 participants were interviewed, respondents also commented on the health and well-being of their children and spouses, representing over 3,000 family members.

#### CHARACTERISTIC

CAWHS sample

**AGE - MEDIAN**

34 years

**GENDER**

64% male / 36% female\*

**PLACE OF BIRTH**

92% foreign born

**ETHNICITY**

96% Latino/Hispanic/Mexican

**MARITAL STATUS**

59% married, 48% have children

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

63%, six years or less

**LITERACY**

51% say they read Spanish well

Only 5% read English well

**INCOME - MEDIAN 1998**

\$7,500 - \$9,999 (annual income, all sources)

\*36% of the CAWHS sample were female, reflecting, in part, the deliberate over-sampling of women.

### EMPLOYMENT TIP OF THE WEEK

It's true that a hiring manager makes his or her first impression based on your appearance.

If you're going to wear an expensive outfit, don't overlook your shoes.

Believe it or not, hiring manager's look someone over from head to toe.

Scuffed or worn shoes tell more about you than the expensive interview outfit you're wearing.

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## Keeping up with New York and Texas

**Y**ou might not think New Yorkers and Texans are much alike. Tall buildings, fast-paced living and pastrami on rye on the one hand; wide-open spaces, cowboy boots and barbecue on the other. But, residents of the Empire State and the Lone Star State do have one thing in common: they're likely paying less than you are for long-distance calls.

Increased competition in the telephone markets in New York and Texas is bringing consumers lower prices, better service and new, innovative offerings. Telecommunications companies are fighting to win customers who want the full range of services — local and long-distance calling, Internet, wireless and more.

Why New York and Texas? In both states, the local Bell telephone company has been approved to enter the long-distance marketplace. Approved first by state regulators and then by the Federal Communications Commission, Bell Atlantic in New York and Southwestern Bell in Texas have emerged as full-service providers, competing for long-distance customers against companies like AT&T and WorldCom.

The results were immediate. Long-distance prices fell overnight as established providers scrambled to meet the low prices offered by Bell. The same companies rushed to match the newcomer's offering of simple, easy-to-understand calling plans with no monthly minimums or hidden charges. And residential customers and small businesses — once ignored by the long-distance giants for being too small — found themselves sorting through competing offers for local telephone service.

Californians can expect the same savings and expanded choices when Pacific Bell is allowed to compete in the long-distance marketplace here. The California Public Utilities Commission is in the final stages of reviewing Pacific Bell's long-distance application and is expected to issue a decision later this year.

California's local telephone marketplace is already more competitive than New York's or Texas'. More than 260 companies are authorized to provide local and long-distance telephone service in the state, and more customers get their local service from a competing carrier than in any other state.

California customers are entitled to increased competition in the long-distance market, and are ready for the savings, service and innovations Texans and New Yorkers already enjoy.

PACIFIC  BELL



**For more information on this and other telecommunications issues, visit [www.projectconnectcalifornia.org](http://www.projectconnectcalifornia.org).**



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A message from California Department of Health Services funded  
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**REQUIREMENTS:** Verification of high school graduation or GED  
certificate is due at the time of application; knowledge of principles,  
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with a student health facility; emergency service agencies within close  
proximity of the assigned school site; general office clerical procedures  
and automated record management, storage and retrieval systems;  
40 WPM typing from clear copy; a valid California driver's license, and  
a current Standard Red Cross First Aid Certificate and CPR Certificate  
are required at employment; for bilingual: knowledge of written and oral  
Spanish. THE POSITION WILL BE OFFERED TO THE SUCCESSFUL  
APPLICANT CONTINGENT UPON PASSING A PRE-PLACEMENT  
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION and UPON RECEIPT OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE INFORMATION INDICATING THAT THE APPLICANT IS NOT  
PROHIBITED FROM BEING EMPLOYED. Qualified applicants must  
file a District application on or before 4:00 p.m., on Thursday,  
January 4, 2001 at the Rialto Unified School District,  
182 E. Walnut Ave., Rialto, CA. (909)820-7700, Ext. 422.  
The District Education Center will be closed Monday and Tuesday,  
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